

ENERGIZE INDIANA

Transforming the Hoosier Economy

Rural development

Indiana's rural areas to be developed under Energize Indiana plan

Indiana leaders have targeted rural areas to get assistance for economic development under the Energize Indiana plan passed by the General Assembly in April and signed into law May 8 by Governor Frank O'Bannon.

When O'Bannon and Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan, who also is commissioner of agriculture, announced their Energize Indiana initiative in December, they said that it was intended to help every area of the state – urban or rural. O'Bannon called on Hoosiers to “dream of an Indiana that will aim to spread prosperity from its major cities to its rural towns. And help me energize Indiana by creating an atmosphere for research and development of new products and ideas.”

Members of the General Assembly agreed, and included the rural assistance in the bipartisan compromise version of Energize Indiana that emerged from the 2003 session.

Energize Indiana creates two new rural development programs and expands the value-added grant program.

Rural Development Administration Fund

What?

\$2.4 million a year in grants and loans to rural communities to:

- Create a pilot project to enhance development of a rural area;
- Establish a local revolving loan fund for an industrial, commercial, agricultural or tourism venture;
- Provide a loan for an economic development project in a rural area;
- Provide technical assistance to a rural organization;
- Assist in the development of a rural cooperative;
- Address rural workforce development challenges; and
- Assist in addressing telecommunications needs in a rural areas.

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Rural Development Council Fund

What?

\$1.2 million a year to fund the Indiana Rural Development Council and regional rural councils.

Councils exist to coordinate efforts of citizens and government to meet the economic and social needs of rural Indiana.

Councils provide a forum for addressing rural issues; seek community input to identify barriers and find solutions; establish partnerships to support innovative approaches to rural development issues; and serve as a voice on common issues of rural concerns.

Promoting value-added agriculture: Indiana's value-added grant program

What?

The value-added grant is designed to fund research and educational projects that develop new uses and demands for Indiana agricultural products.

The program serves Indiana farmers, agri-applicable farm organizations by funding endeavors include assistance to agricultural alliances to make their marketing dollars awarded 131 grants of more than \$3.8

House Enrolled Act 1001, which contained the \$250,000 annual appropriation for the \$850,000 available in each year of the

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businesses, commodity groups and research and educational programs. Other producers to develop business co-ops and go farther. In the last 10 years, the program million.

the Energize Indiana program, increased program by \$600,000 a year, making FY04-05 biennium.

Applications for grants will be taken in the fall, and awards will be made in February or March 2004. A similar timetable will be followed for FY05.

For more information... www.IN.gov/irdc or www.IN.gov/oca